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Bill 1138 An Act Concerning Strengthening of School Bullying Laws

Senator Stillman , Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee

My name is Carolyn Goodridge, and I am representing the CT Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents, a nonprofit organization committed to support, training and advocacy of foster and adoptive parents and relative caregivers. I am writing in support of Proposed bill SB 1138.

Bullying is becoming an epidemic , and much of the bullying occurs in the school setting. Children in foster care are especially susceptible to bullying because they move to new school settings more frequently, and they have experienced traumatic events in their lives that can victimize them. Although many schools have established a bullying policy, there is not consistency in enforcing the policies. This bill stresses training for school personnel as well as training for peers on a regular basis. This will go far in improving awareness of the bullying issues. The inclusion of "cyber-bullying" is an addition that seems very necessary in our technical society.

Bullying is cited as the cause for some mental illness in children, and also for some suicides in children. It is imperative to make our schools safer for children, and this bill is another step toward safety.

Thank you